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library on childhood and the problems it presents or, perhaps unfortunately, is coming to be thought to present. The content is a series of sketches on the life of a usual little boy from about two to seven years of age and the temptations and struggles and falls of the human soul in its beginnings are familiar to all parents. Equally familiar and interesting are the very natural portrayals of the parents' attitude when these delicate points arise, and it is in this that quite subtly a good deal of philosophy and suggestion and child-psychology are worked in to add to the vast and infinite store of knowledge requisite for latter day parenthood. The publishers must be thanked for offering this little book in very attractive form and binding.

THE YOUNG O'BRIENS: Being an Account of their Sojourn in London. By the author of "Elizabeth's Children." New York: The Bodley Head, John Lane Company. 1906. \$1.50.

A not altogether unsympathetic observer once designated a family of children as "a lot of terrible young ruffians" and one is reminded of this in making the acquaintance of "The Young O'Briens." This interesting aggregation is forced by money troubles and the ill-health of the mother from a charming, free out-door life in Ireland to the confinement and restrictions of a well-conducted old maid aunt's home in London. The young people are depressed but in no sense controlled by their new circumstances and their entire freedom from any feeling of responsibility or delicate consideration of their aunt and her property produces confusion in London. The humor of the book and personal attractions of the characters united with their Irish luck produces a series of interesting episodes and diffuse a spirit of *bonhomie* which wins the aunt and breaks through the mist of initial reserve in the reader.

POETRY

SELECTIONS FROM THE POETRY OF JOHN PAYNE. Made by Tracy and Lucy Robinson. With an Introduction by Lucy Robinson. New York: The Bodley Head, The John Lane Co. 1906.

John Payne is best known for his expressive rendering of the "Arabian Nights,"—which Burton, it is said, notoriously pil-